

# **WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE**

## **2025 REGULAR SESSION**

### **Committee Substitute**

**for**

### **Committee Substitute**

**for**

## **Senate Bill 531**

BY SENATORS WOELFEL, OLIVERIO, HAMILTON, FULLER,

WILLIS, TAYLOR, AND HELTON

[Reported March 27, 2025, from the Committee on  
the Judiciary]



1 A BILL to amend and reenact §61-2-15a of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating  
2 to the offenses of assault and battery on athletic officials; increasing the fines for assault  
3 or battery on athletic officials; and providing criminal penalties for the offenses.

*Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:*

## **ARTICLE 2. CRIMES AGAINST THE PERSON.**

### **§61-2-15a. Assault, battery on athletic officials; penalties.**

1 (a) If any person commits an assault, as defined in §61-2-9(b) of this code, to the person  
2 of an athletic official during the time the official is acting as an athletic official, or traveling to and  
3 from an organized sporting event as an athletic official, the offender is guilty of a misdemeanor  
4 and, upon conviction thereof, shall be fined not ~~more~~ less than \$500 nor more than \$1,000, or  
5 confined in jail not more than six months, or both fined and confined.

6 (b) If any person commits a battery, as defined in §61-2-9(c) of this code, ~~against~~ to the  
7 person of an athletic official during the time the official is acting as an athletic official, or traveling  
8 to and from an organized sporting event as an athletic official, the offender is guilty of a  
9 misdemeanor and, upon conviction thereof, shall be fined not ~~more~~ less than \$1,000 nor more  
10 than \$2,000, or confined in jail not more than ~~twelve~~ 12 months, or both fined and confined.

11 (c) For the purpose of this section, "athletic official" means a person at ~~a sports~~ an  
12 organized sporting event who enforces the rules of that event, such as an umpire, ~~or~~ referee, ~~or~~  
13 ~~a person who supervises the participants, such as a coach,~~ or other athletic staff.